

Compliance Assistance

EPA/USDA Projects – General Agriculture



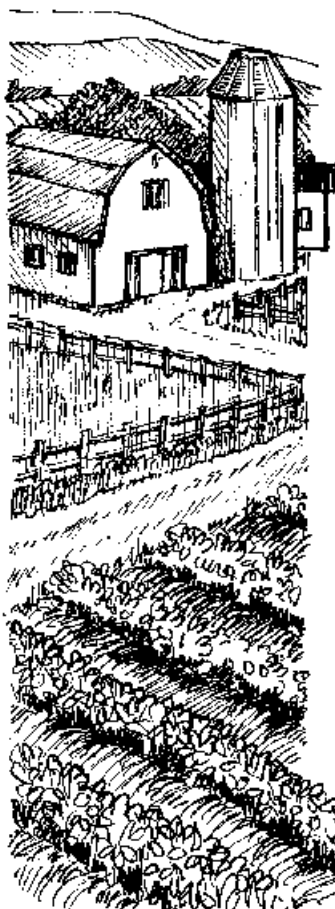
Ag Center

*Helping Agriculture Comply with
Environmental Requirements*

F O C U S O N

Agriculture Compliance Assistance Project: General Agriculture

This fact sheet will tell you about a national project to develop programs and materials that will help the agricultural community comply with environmental regulations.



Three-year project

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are cooperating in a 3-year national project to help agricultural producers implement sound environmental management practices and comply with environmental regulations that affect their businesses.

The environmental compliance assistance program, for which approximately \$416,000 has been allocated, is being funded through a cooperative agreement administered by USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and EPA's National

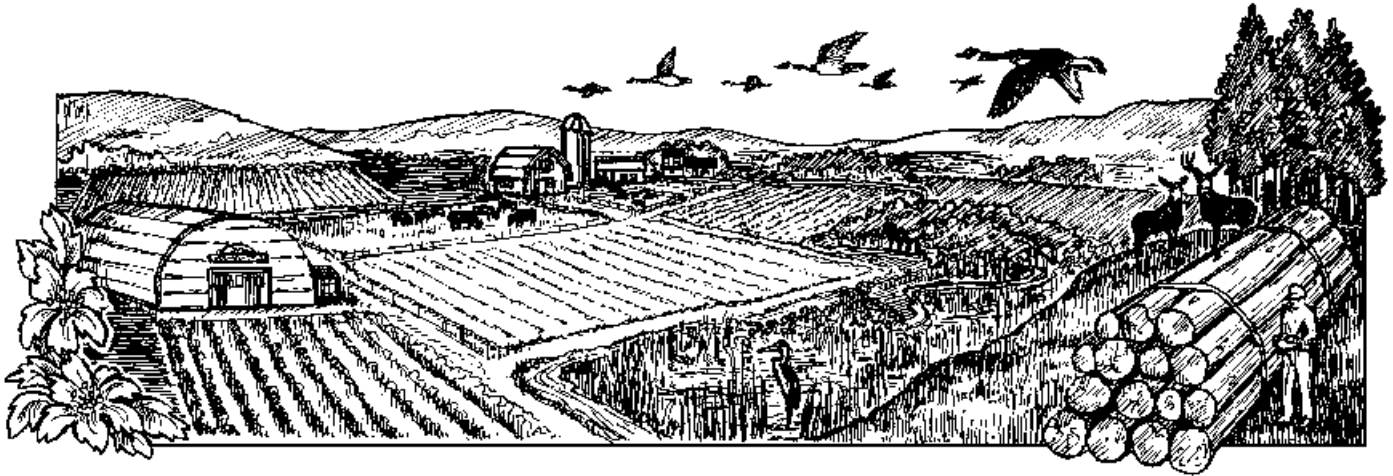
Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center (Ag Center).

The program will help producers find the answers to questions such as

- Where do I fit in with watershed environmental issues?
- What environmental requirements affect me?
- What resources are available to help me comply?
- How can I comply in a cost-effective way?

Nationwide team

A peer review process chose a project led by North Carolina State University. Five other universities are cooperating in the project. (See list of cooperators below.)



The project will develop materials and other tools to help producers use common-sense, cost-effective approaches to meeting environmental requirements.

The nationwide team of project participants will work closely with the Ag Center and CSREES to increase growers' understanding of the principles of environmental management and to foster compliance with environmental requirements that affect U.S. agriculture.

Project objectives

The objectives of the project are to help producers

- understand which environmental requirements may affect them
- assess their potential contributions to pollution of air, groundwater, and surface water
- access resources that will help them assess and reduce potential violations of environmental and health standards, both on and off their farms
- comply with environmental requirements in a cost-effective way.

Resources

Experts in this area will lead the effort to gather and develop material on various aspects of environmental requirements, environmental compliance, pollution prevention, and pollution mitigation. The materials will be pilot-tested nationwide. A nationwide distribution plan for these materials is also part of the project.

The specialists will also help build a national library of existing materials and

technologies for use in helping producers achieve compliance with environmental requirements.

A third resource to be developed is an up-to-date list of experts who can provide assistance in various environmental compliance areas.

Training programs

The project includes development of training programs for the agricultural community's information providers -- extension personnel, agrichemical retailers, agricultural consultants, NRCS district conservationists, and state/tribal water quality personnel. The model training packages will be designed for easy inclusion of state and tribal regulations and concerns.

Cooperators

- North Carolina State University (project lead)
- California Polytechnic State University
- Cornell University
- North Carolina A&T State University
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Purdue University

Materials to be developed may include fact sheets, audiovisual aids, guides, checklists, and handbooks.

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For more information

You can get more facts about compliance by calling the Ag Center's toll-free number. Materials can be sent to you by fax or mail, or you can talk to an Ag Center representative. For a list of all publications available from the Ag Center, request document number 10001, "Ag Center Publications."

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